

An afternoon with Betty Who!

Around 55 lucky kids, foster parents, case workers and volunteers attended the June 23rd, afternoon benefit performance at Interlochen's Corson Auditorium. This event was offered to youth involved in the court system and as a gift of thanks to volunteers and caregivers, for the wide range of good done in support of kids and families, in our community.

The afternoon began with a welcome and introduction from Cynthia Johnson, CASA volunteer, and Mom of Jessica Newham, a.k.a. Betty Who. Two pop songs performed by Betty Who were followed by a 40 minute "get acquainted-ask questions". Betty and her team, the band & road crew, sat on the stage for this informal forum.

Questions ranged from - "What superhero would you like to be" to "what is it like to be on tour", "Who is your favorite musician", and even, "Do you have any pets". Betty Who and her team's values about working hard for your dreams, and emphasis on the importance of working as a team, was an important and inspirational message.

In some ways many of the youth on hand had never attended a concert or visited Interlochen Arts Academy. Kids left feeling special. They had their pictures taken with Betty Who and were given an autographed CD. The closing song was, "Somebody Loves You" —our theme for the day.



"A Foster Family" with Betty Who





Happy Birthday

JULY

Mary Wayne
 Michael Robold
 Carla Lamphere
 Beverly Popovits
 Luann Heinert
 Jerry O'Hearn
 Karen Grant
 Laura Mains
 Matt Maratea
 Carrie Brown
 Matt Bertrand
 Lindsey Tholen

AUGUST

Elliot Morrison Barb Grewe
 Jane Vitkus Sue Pahl
 Etta Rajkovich Theresa Galante
 Nancy Giles Bonnie Flowers
 Ruth Bay Kellie Robinson
 Ed Thoma
 Don Kuehlhorn
 John Wilkins
 Bettie Wilkins
 Barbara Disborough
 Karen Gartland
 Tim Doyle



New Volunteer, Mary Meernik, donated nearly 40 beanie babies to our office for children involved in the court system.
 Thank You, Mary!



Look for Sue Adkins, formerly with Volunteer Services, in our Family Court Administration office, 2nd floor. Welcome Kathy Nixon, Truancy Intervention Program, filling in the open position in Volunteer Services this summer.

Guardian Training-2014

Twenty six guardians, conservators, and interested persons attended the 2 day guardian training on May 6th and 8th, 2014

The Michigan Guardian Association provided an overview of responsibilities of being appointed to act for someone unable to make medical, personal, and financial decisions on their own.

They were joined by a local panel of experts whose combined message was, "you are not alone", in this challenging role. Many thanks to these community panel members who serve as great resources.

Mindy Czinder— Adult Protective Services, DHS

Darlene Buchner & Lacey Jones—
 Community Mental Health

Linda Wasiewlewski-Attorney and GAL

Connie Hintsula-Alliance for Senior Housing

Patti Marar— GT County Vol. Guardian
 and Conservator

Hello,

My name is Rachel Ottman.
 I will be interning this
 summer with Probate

Volunteer Services as well
 as, 13th Circuit Court, Family Division. I am a
 student at Ferris State University working towards
 my bachelor degree in Criminal Justice and a
 minor in Psychology, on tract to graduate this Dec.

I married a good friend from high school and we
 have three daughters, which are all under the age
 of six. I love living in this area and hope to be able
 to raise my children here, like I was. I am hoping
 that my degree will allow me to give back to the
 community, and help those that live in it.

Rachel



Learning



Partners



Learning Partners is a year-round program. In the summer months, when able, we try to continue to meet with students to help prevent “summer loss” of learning. Some do this via letters and become pen pals to proactive writing and reading skills over the summer, while others are able to meet in-person at the library or other public place.

We also have summer events planned that include the entire family. Students will test their math skills at a Beach Bums baseball game. We also have a nature hike and back-to-school (already!) potluck planned for August.

We will need to add Learning Partner Volunteers to our ranks as Fall approaches. Please spread the word to your friends that might make good tutor/mentors to elementary school children that have been identified as being at risk of court involvement.



Learning Partner Swim 2014, wrapped up and was once again a big success. One Learning Partner told us, “during tutoring sessions with her student, she was proud to discuss her progress in swim class. I believe that her growing confidence in her swimming abilities is helping her to feel more confident overall.”

No CASA meeting is scheduled in July. We hope you will spend your time with family and friends and enjoy our beautiful Northern Michigan!



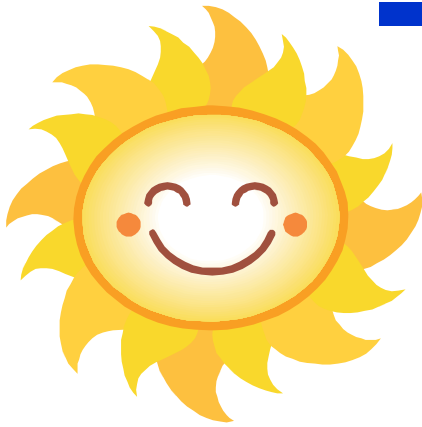
SAVE THE DATE– Tuesday, Aug. 5th, CASA volunteers will welcome, Dana LaCross, MSW and former Court, Therapeutic Programs Coordinator give a presentation and discussion on writing fact based court reports. An important part of a CASA volunteers voice for a child is writing an effective court report. **Please note the change in date and time of this important meeting.**



Back: Nancy Giles, John Evans, Laura McVey, Judge Stanton, Judge Nelson, Terry Allen, Dean Manikas, Darcie Pickren, Joe Povolo, Lisa Niergarth **Front:** JoEllen Evans, Darcy Schlitt, Katy Ramsdell, Linda Fawcett, Diance Conklin, Barb Cross

Welcome new CASA volunteers sworn in by Judge Melanie Stanton, on May 19th, 2014. For the second year, Leelanau County volunteers attended our training and this time as a stand alone program. Judge Larry J. Nelson, joined by Court Administrator, Joe Povolo, were present to conduct their swearing in. Several volunteers were sworn-in for CASA involvement in both counties.

A special thank you to fellow CASA, Lisa Niergarth, and CASA training team member, Barb Cross, for their thoughtful words during the ceremony.



2014 New Vision Academy is off to a great start. The first 2 week session has just wrapped up and the kids were able to participate in a variety of classes/experiences. We would like to thank; **Nichole- Third Level Crisis Intervention Center, Sgt. Barnby- United States Army, Phil Hamburg- Yoga Instructor, Maswe Hennrick and Sue Schmidt- “Let’s Do Lunch”, cooking class, Janet Hughes- Lakeview Counseling, Officer Matt McKinley, Gerry Chefalo-Attorney, Lisa Danto- Smoking Cessation and BATA staff- Patricia and Roger.**

Volunteer Services would like to thank, Darcy Schlitt and Katy Ramsdell, for taking on the responsibility of facilitation this summer’s New Vision classes. Mrs. Schlitt, “Was a music teacher for 30 years. When she retired she missed children and decided to take the CASA training, which led her to us. She has three grown children, who live out of town and a retired husband who used to be a special education teacher.”

Mrs. Ramsdell says: “I am enjoying a beautiful summer with my 2 golden retrievers at my home on the Crown Golf Course. New Vision Academy is a pleasant diversion from throwing tennis balls for the dogs and an opportunity to spend time with a group of energetic young people. We experienced activities from discussions about positive thinking and appropriate behavior, to yoga, cooking, martial arts and boating safety. The volunteer presenters made it a point to relate to the students and brought them mornings that were both educational and enjoyable.”

Survive a “Month in Poverty” In Northwest Michigan



This community leadership workshop will involve you in a role-play simulation that invites a deeper understanding about the daily challenges of living in poverty.

Friday, Sept. 19, 2014

9 a.m.-Noon

NMC Hagerty Conference Center

All volunteers and interested persons are invited to attend this community event. Register at www.nmc.edu/ees or call Volunteer Services for more information.

Workshop participants role-play persons in poverty in a variety of circumstances and situations: Some are newly unemployed, some have just experienced desertions of the breadwinner, others receive temporary assistance for needy families and children, and others are older residents challenged by illness and isolation.

During the workshop, you and your “family” will be part of a community that includes a bank, police station, school, grocery store, an employment office, food pantry, human services office, and pawnshop. Your Main task is to provide both shelter and basic necessities for your family for a whole “month” (divided into four 15-minute “weeks”). Your fate may change overnight with a luck of the draw card that could bring you unexpected income or an unplanned expense.



GRAND TRAVERSE AREA LITERACY COUNCIL



Well, we had a wild Winter and a short Spring, so far Summer seems to be acting normal (now if the water would warm up...).

As we all have, GTALC also managed to survive the past two seasons and fiscally speaking, our Treasurer, Jerry DeGrazia, reports our financial resources are sound which bodes well for the future.

On another organizational note our partnership with the Probate and Family Court Volunteer Services Dept. is well underway with clients being identified and GTALC services requested as a result. This important enterprise will not only change the lives of the clients but likely those of the client's family as well.

Special thanks go to GTALC volunteers, Linda Fawcett, Linda Frank and Mary DeGrazia, as well as, court staff and of course Judge Stanton whose vision drove enterprise.

Another member of this project, Nancy Thompson who is the assessment coordinator and tutor/student match maker, is stepping down from her role in GTALC. Due to medical issues, she is unable to continue with her volunteer activities. We thank Nancy for all that she has done for the Literacy Council and wish her a full and speedy recovery.

Her fellow volunteers will work with Nancy in the transition of her role.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Thompson, President GTALC



National Cherry Festival July 5th-12th, 2014

July 5th– Air Show 12:30

July 6th– Classic Car Show 11:00 a.m.

Air Show– 12:30

Arts & Craft Show– Union St.

July 9th-Cherry Town Fun Night 4:00

July 10th– Junior Royale Parade 6:30

July 12th– Cherry Royale Parade 11:15 a.m.

Fireworks-10:30

For more info. on events and concerts, visit:

www.cherryfestival.org



Grand Traverse/Kalkaska/Leelanau County DHS is hiring a Parent Aide(s). For a more information, please contact, Natalie



Patterson– 231-929-2523 or mail a resume to Natalie at 701 S. Elmwood Dr. Traverse City, Mi 49684.



**VOLUNTEERS IN
PREVENTION/PROBATION**

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MELANIE D. STANTON, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE

280 Washington St., Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684

231-922-4827

PRE-SORT STD.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684

PERMIT NO. 229

Or Current Resident

*All meeting are held at the Volunteer Services office
unless otherwise mentioned.

Learning Partners

1st Tuesday-4:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday, July 1st NO MEETING
Tuesday, Aug. 5th NO MEETING



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)- See pg. 3

3rd Tuesday- 4:00-6:00 pm

Tuesday, July 15th NO MEETING
Tuesday, Aug. 5th (See Pg. #4)



Literacy Council

3rd Wednesday-6:00 pm
Traverse Area District Library

Wednesday, July 16th NO MEETING
Wednesday, Aug. 20th NO MEETING



SAVE THE DATE!

Transport Training Refresher

Sept. 11, 2014

New Volunteer Orientation

Oct. 7, 9 and 14, 2014

Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Oct. 21st, 2014

Park Place-Top of the Park